

ORDINARY MEETING.

FRIDAY, NOV. 3RD, 1882.

W. H. HUDLESTON, Esq., M.A., F.G.S., President, in the chair.

The list of donations to the library since the last meeting was read, and the thanks of the Association were returned to the donors.

The following were elected members of the Association:—J. W. Hulke, Esq., F.R.S., President of the Geological Society; Edward Waltham, Esq.; Rev. Wm. Downes, B.A., F.G.S.

The President then read his annual address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

ON THE GEOLOGY OF PALESTINE.

1. The remarkable country which is situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Syro-Arabian Desert has always possessed a strong hold upon the imagination of Europeans, and, I should in justice add, of their Transatlantic cousins likewise. The reasons for this deep interest are not far to seek, and need but a passing allusion in dealing with the physical structure and geological composition of the district.

Even Napoleon, that bold crusader of the French Revolution, felt the mysterious spell which has drawn so many to the East, and though he found it convenient to return to Europe shortly after his repulse at Acre, he oftentimes lamented that he had missed his destiny before that second-rate fortress of the coast of Palestine.

As a direct result of the great Napoleonic wars, the commencement of the present century was not favourable to the investigation of distant countries, and the records of travel are consequently but few.* It is, however, a fact that about this period certain parties in England formed a kind of association for the exploration of Palestine, and there is a tradition that agents were sent out, who failed, in the then disturbed state of affairs, to reach the Holy Land.

* "When the forces of Great Britain acquired a footing in Palestine, the triangulation and preliminary delineation of the country was attempted by our Royal Engineers." Trelawney Saunders, Geog. Sec. Brit. Assoc., 1881. Sep. Notice, p. 4.